

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

Office: Cascades Field Office

Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2016-0028-DNA

Case file/Project Number: N/A

Proposed Action Title/Type: Quartzville Late Successional Reserve Snag and Down Wood Creation Project

Location/Legal Description: Yellowbottom Creek area, Quartzville LSR- T. 11 S., R. 4 E. Section 8, 17, 19, 20, and 21, W.M., Linn County

Applicant (if any): N/A

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The purpose of the project is to develop late successional characteristics in young plantations in the Late Successional Reserve (LSR). The area has been identified in the Revised Recovery Plan for the Northern spotted owl as Critical Habitat. The Salem District has ranked this area the highest priority under the Wildlife Working Group Restoration Strategy for Recovery Action (RA) 10. The area is in the provincial home range of three active known spotted owl sites.

The project proposes to create snags and down wood in approximately 200 acres of 50 year old plantations in the Quartzville LSR. In addition to the creation of dead wood, the project objectives also aim to create future legacy trees. Focal trees will be identified, future legacy trees, then adjacent trees will be cut or girdled around the identified tree. The extent of the creation of snags and down wood will be consistent with the Mid-Willamette LSR for creating openings no larger than a ¼ acre. The trees cut and girdled will be limited to 60' around the focal tree, a radius of ¼ acre. The area selected has been prioritized to benefit Threatened and Endangered (T&E) wildlife species. The area has multiple constraints on creating future economically viable commercial thinnings such as high haul costs, expensive cable systems, small trees, extensive road building and repair, and expense related to creation of snags and coarse wood following RMP direction. Completing a treatment when the stand is young will reduce the effects on Northern spotted owls. The stand is currently functioning as dispersal habitat for Northern Spotted owls and would be improved after treatment.

The following treatments are proposed:

- Approximately 2,000 trees 10" to 16" DBH and will be felled to create down wood;
- Approximately 500 trees between 16" and 24" DBH will be base girdled; and
- Approximately 10 trees between 16" and 24" DBH will be high girdled.

Work would be scheduled to be completed in Fall 2017. Work will avoid critical breeding period for northern spotted owl, March 15th through July 31st. Units 19A and 20A would be completed after recreation sites in the area have been closed after September 5th. Work will be completed with a service contract using a company that specializes in this type of work.

The BLM analyzed for the creation of snags and down wood in the late-successional reserves in the *Salem District Wildlife Tree and Down Wood Creation (CX)* (DOI-BLM-OR-S000-2013-0001-CX). The BLM is proposing actions consistent with those analyzed to meet the purpose and need and objectives in the CX.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: *Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1995 RMP)*

Date Approved: March 1995

As amended by the *Record of Decision for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and Other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines*, dated January 2001 (SM/ROD) with subsequent Annual Species Reviews. These actions comply with the SM/ROD as described above and utilize the December 2003 species list. This list incorporates species changes and removals made as a result of the 2001, 2002, and 2003 Annual Species Reviews (ASR) with the exception of the red tree vole. For the red tree vole, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *KSWC et al. v. Boody et al.*, 468 F.3d 549 (9th Cir. 2006) vacated the category change and removal of the red tree vole in the mesic zone, and returned the red tree vole to its status as existed in the 2001 ROD Standards and Guidelines, which makes the species Category C throughout its range.

The BLM signed a Record of Decision approving the Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Resource Management Plan (2016 ROD/RMP) on August 5, 2016.

Revision of an RMP necessarily involves a transition from the application of the old RMP to the application of the new RMP. The planning and analysis of future projects such as timber sales requires several years of preparation before the BLM can design a site-specific project and reach a decision. Allowing for a transition from the old RMP to the new RMP avoids disrupting the management of BLM-administered lands and allows the BLM to utilize work already begun on the planning and analysis of projects.

The 2016 ROD/RMP (p. 10) allows the BLM to implement projects consistent with the management direction of either the 1995 RMP or the approved RMP, at the discretion of the decision maker, if—

- The BLM had not signed a project-specific decision prior to the effective date of the ROD;
- The BLM began preparation of NEPA documentation prior to the effective date of the ROD; and
- The BLM signs a project-specific decision on the project within two years of the effective date of the ROD.

The Cascades Field Office began preparation of NEPA documentation prior to the effective date of the 2016 ROD/RMP, as the District initiated planning and NEPA documentation for this project on June 10, 2016. This project was designed to conform to and be consistent with the Salem District's 1995 Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (1995 ROD/RMP).

This project meets the criteria described in the 2016 ROD/RMP that allows the BLM to implement projects that conform and are consistent with the 1995 ROD/RMP, with the exception of five categories of prohibited carry-over actions (2016 ROD, p. 11). The Quartzville Late Successional Reserve Snag and Down Wood Creation Project does not include any actions that are excepted and therefore precluded from the 2-year transition period under the 2016 ROD/RMP.

1. Regeneration harvest (construction of roads or landings does not constitute regeneration harvest) within the Late-Successional Reserve allocated by this ROD that is inconsistent with the management direction for the Late-Successional Reserve contained within the approved RMP.

No regeneration harvest within the Late-Successional Reserve LUA is proposed under the Project so there are no inconsistencies between the 1995 ROD and the 2016 ROD.

2. Issuance of right-of-way grants within the Late-Successional Reserve allocated by this ROD that are inconsistent with the management direction for the Late-Successional Reserve contained within the approved RMP.

The Project will not include the issuance of any right-of-way grants within the Late-Successional Reserve LUA, so there are no inconsistencies between the 1995 ROD and the 2016 ROD.

3. Commercial thinning within the inner zone of the Riparian Reserve allocated by this ROD that is inconsistent with the management direction for the Riparian Reserve contained within the approved RMP.

No commercial thinning within the inner zone of the Riparian Reserve is proposed under the Project so there are no inconsistencies between the 1995 ROD and the 2016 ROD.

4. Projects within the District-Designated Reserve – Lands Managed for their Wilderness Characteristics allocated by this ROD that are inconsistent with the management direction for the District-Designated Reserve – Lands Managed for their Wilderness Characteristics contained within the approved RMP.

No activities are proposed within the District-Designated Reserve – Lands Managed for their Wilderness Characteristics, so there are no inconsistencies between the 1995 ROD and the 2016 ROD.

5. Timber harvest that would cause the incidental take of northern spotted owl territorial pairs or resident singles and does not have a signed Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement that predates the effective date of the Biological Opinion for the approved RMP.

No timber harvest is proposed under the Project. The Proposed Action will not cause an incidental take of northern spotted owl territorial pairs or resident singles and would instead enhance dispersal habitat for northern spotted owls.

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

- In LSRs, design projects to improve conditions for wildlife if they provide late successional habitat benefits, or if their effect on the late-successional species is negligible (RMP, p. 25);
- Study, maintain, or restore community structure, species composition, and ecological processes of special status plant and animal habitat (RMP, p.28); and
- Install nesting platforms, nest boxes, and other structures to enhance habitat (RMP, p. 26).

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Salem District Wildlife Tree and Down Wood Creation (CX) --- CX# DOI-BLM-OR-S000-2013-0001-CX

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?**

Yes, the Proposed Action is a feature of the Salem District Wildlife Tree and Down Wood Creation CX (CX). The CX analyzed the completion of approximately 4,500 acres of snag and down wood creation (treatment) throughout the Salem District from 2013 to 2018. To date, 1,000 acres of treatment has been completed Salem District wide under the CX. The Proposed Action will complete an additional 250 acres of treatment, which, cumulatively with the previous 1,000 acres completed, is lower than the amount analyzed in the CX.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes, no additional alternatives were analyzed under the CX because no unresolved resource conflicts or interests were identified. The action analyzed in the CX covers the Proposed Action, as described in #1 above.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action?**

Yes, the existing analysis in the CX is valid for the Proposed Action. The CX determined that there were no extraordinary circumstances related to proposed implementation of treatments with regards to public health and safety, cultural resources, Endangered or Threatened Species, or BLM-sensitive species in 2013. The information used to make the determination for the CX is still valid and no new circumstances have been discovered that would substantially change the analysis for the Proposed Action.

4. **Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?**

Yes, effects outlined in the CX are substantially similar to those that would result from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

5. **Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?**

Yes, the CX was included in the Salem District Office Spring 2013 Project Update and Summer 2013 Project Update, which is adequate for public scoping. No comments were received on the CX during scoping.

E. Persons/Agencies /BLM Staff Consulted

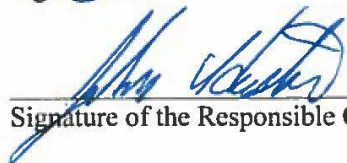
Name	Role or Resource Represented	Initials	Date
Whitney Wirthlin	NEPA Review	WW	8/23/16
Belle Verbics	Supervisor	B.V	8/23/2016
Corbin Murphy	Wildlife	CM	07/19/2016
Terry Fennell	Botany	TGF	07/20/2016
Bruce Zoellick	Fisheries	BWZ	7/28/2016
Patrick Hawe	Hydrology/Water Quality/Soils	WPH	7/28/2016
Seth Macalady	Silviculture	SAM	07/25/2016
Heather Ulrich	Cultural Resources	HU	08/11/2016
Traci Meredith	Recreation	Tmm	7/28/2016

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.


Signature of Project Lead


Signature of NEPA Coordinator


Signature of the Responsible Official

8/25/16
Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Salem District Office
Decision Record
DOI-BLM-ORWA-S040-2016-0028-DNA
Quartzville Late Successional Reserve Snag and Down Wood Creation Project

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Quartzville Late Successional Reserve Snag and Down Wood Creation Project (Project), as described in the attached Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) documentation DOI-BLM-ORWA-S040-2016-0028-DNA. The Project meets the criteria for NEPA adequacy in that the answers to the DNA questions show the Project is similar in scope to the Selected Action from the NEPA analysis described in the Salem District Wildlife Tree and Down Wood Creation CX (DOI-BLM-OR-S000-2013-0001-CX). The DNA questions also show that impacts from the Project will be similar as those described in the CX and Decision Record, so the analysis provided in the CX is adequate for the Project.

Decision Rationale

The Project has been reviewed by BLM staff. The Project is in conformance with the 1995 Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (as amended). Based on the Determination of NEPA Adequacy, I have determined that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the Project and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA (DNA Sections B and C).

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board or IBLA) according to 43 CFR Part 4 – Department of Interior Hearings and Appeals Procedures, found on the internet at:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2002-title43-vol1/xml/CFR-2002-title43-vol1-part4.xml>

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this decision, contact Whitney Wirthlin, Planning and Environmental Specialists, Cascades Field Office at (503) 375-5612.

Implementation Date: This project will be implemented after September 23rd, 2016.

Authorized Officer



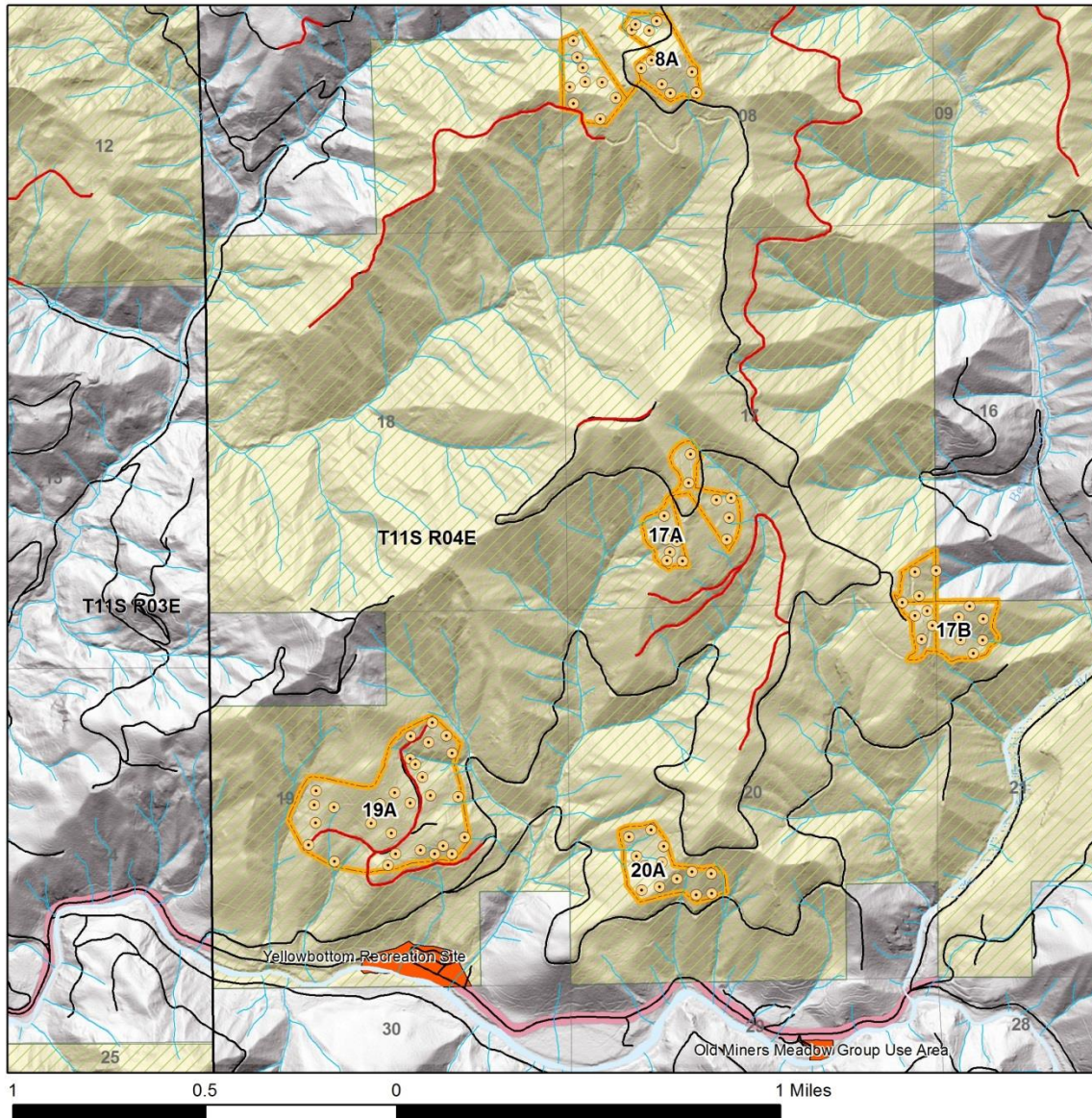
John Huston
Field Manager, Cascades Field Office

8/25/16
Date

DNA Worksheet For Quartzville LSR Snag and Down Wood Creation DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2016-0028-DNA



United States - Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
 Salem District / Cascades Resource Area
2016 Quartzville LSR Snag and CWD Creation Project



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Units focal trees Streams roads closed roads recreation site Township and Range Sections Bureau of Land Management | <p>Land Use Allocation - NWFP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptive Management Area Adaptive Management Area w/LSR Congressionally Reserved Connectivity District Defined Reserve Late-Successional Reserve General Forest Management Area No designation |
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